

### **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please delete the paragraph under the RELATED APPLICATIONS heading and replace it with:

This application is a Continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/919,596 filed July 31, 2001 for COLLATING AND SORTING APPARATUS, now U.S. Patent No. 6,676,127; which in turn, is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/380,943 filed September 13, 1999, now U.S. Patent 6,267,248 for COLLATING AND SORTING APPARATUS, which in turn is based on PCT Application Serial No. PCT/AU98/00157 filed March 13, 1998 in Australia, which in turn claims priority from Australian Provisional Application 5640 filed March 13, 1997..